ON THE REDSKINS' TRACK

Troops Rushing to the Rescue of Captain Payne.

AN AWFUL SILENCE AT THE FRONT.

Indications of Another Massacre with No Survivors.

DREAD NEWS FROM THE AGENCY EXPECTED.

Government Officials Fixing the Responsibility.

GENERAL TYNER AND PARTY SAFE.

Sheridan's Story of Our Indian Policy and Its Dire Results.

THE UTES A YEAR AGO.

The Scene of the Combat on Milk Creek.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

RAWLINS, W. T., Oct. 3, 1879. Up to half-past ten o'clock this evening no intelligence from the Thornburgh command has been received. The awful silence at the front indicates that the worst may be expected, and people here acquainted with the Indian character are awaiting with a great dread news from the agency.

Settlers who passed the Merritt command to day report that he intended to reach the camp of Lieutenant Price on Fortification Creek, ninety miles from Rawlins, to-night. This was the supply camp of the Thornburgh expedition, where Price and thirty men were left with subaistence stores. If Merritt reaches there tonight we will know the fate of this part of the unfortunate command to-morrow.

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.

The troops which have arrived here up to this time have all been pushed to the front. The following troops have been ordered here and are now en route :- One company of cavalry from Fort Fetterman, one company of cavalry from Camp Robinson; six companies of cavalry and two of infantry from Fort McKinney. All the transportation of the department of the Platte, including pack trains, are moving toward this

General Crook is expected here to-morrow to take command. Major Bourke, of his staff, arrived at an early hous this morning, and has gone with the reinforcements to join Merritt.

GONE TO THE FORT.

Captain Vroom, of Company F. Third cavalry, 110 men, and 120 men of the Fourteenth infantry, under the command of Major Rryant, moved this morning.

The mail courier arrived this morning from Snake River, but had no intelligence from south of that point. The carrier who brings the mail to that place failed to make the connection.

SETTLERS' ESTIMATE OF THE UTE STRENGTH.

The Utes have been making purchase of ammunition from traders in their vicinity for the past three months and are in condition to give battle to the Merritt command. It is estimated by settlers who live near the agency and have come in that they have from twelve to fifteen hundred warriors, they having congregated there from the other two Ute agencies. A man who escaped when the Gordon wagon train was captured and burned, says that the Utes told him two days before the Thornburgh fight that they did not intend to molest citizens but would kill all solidiers who came to remove them from the reservation, tuey believing that the Thornburgh command had been sent for that purpose.

TROOPS THAT HAVE GONE.

The following troops, with transportation, have left here up to this time for Megritt's command:-General Merritt, commanding expedition; Lieutenant Compton, Major Sumner. Lieutenants Sweet, Hall and Weir, of Merritt's staff: Lieutenants Bourke and Schuyler, of General Crook's staff; Dr. Dewitt and one assistant of the medical staff; four companies of the Fifth cavalry; one company of the Fourth infantry; from Fort Russell; four companies of the Fourth infantry from Fort Sanders; one company of the Fifth cavalry; one company of the Third cavalry from Fort McPherson and four companies of the Fourteenth infantry from Camp Douglass

Captain James Gilliss, depot quartermaster at Cheyenne, has arrived and assumed charge of that department. Six companies of the Seventh infantry, from St. Paul, left Omnha yesterday, and will arrive here to-night. Merritt has six days' half forage with him. Forty thousand pounds of grain and subsistence stores started for his command this

WO NEWS FROM DODGE'S COLORED COMMAND-A GENERAL BELIEF THAT IT HAS BEEN WIPED OUT-THE LAST LETTER FROM MEEKER'S FAMILY-ENTIRE CONFIDENCE EX-

> (BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD, I DENVER. Col., Oct. 3, 1879.

Advices from Georgetown, received to-night, report that the coach from Middle Park arrived on time and came through unmolested. The Utes have fired the timber all along the Rabbit Ear range and northern boundary of

The whereabouts of Dodge's colored command, which left Hot Sulphur Springs, in Middle Park, for the agency last Friday, is still unknown. The opinion of the Park people is that the company has been wined out by

Couriers were sent forward from Georgetown to-day to ascertain the public sentiment, which here is strongly in favor of a State campaign. The State companies are on the alert for orders to move. To-night Governor Pitkin received a telegram for a thousand rounds of needle-gun cartridges from the Pitkin Guards, in Auray county, which is near the location of the Uncompangre Uutes, and the telegram would seem to indicate trouble

THE LAST LETTER FROM MEEKER.

A telegram from Greeley, Meeker's home, says a letter from Meeker's family was received there last night, written Sunday night, postmarked Monday. They say "all are well and as safe as you are in Greeley. No Indians have removed their women and children." This letter was written the day after the fight and does not agree with the scout's version of affairs at the agency. The opinion here is that Meeker and all the agency people are killed.

ARRIVAL OF GENERAL CROOK AT OWAWA - GREAT ACTIVITY IN THE MOVEMENT OF TROOPS-THE GENERAL'S VIEWS ON THE OUTBREAK AND THE SITUATION OF PAYNE'S COMMAND.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

Омана, Neb., Oct. 3, 1879. General Crook, commanding this department, returned from Chicago this morning, where, in company with General Sheridan, he has been planning the Indian campaign against the Utes in Colorado. Immediately on his return he proceeded to Fort Omaha and the department corral, and a multitude of orders regarding the movements of troops and concentration of supplies at Rawlins were issued. The most important of these orders instructs three companies of the Sixth cavalry, now en route from Rock Creek to McKinney, to return and proceed to Rawlins, while three companies now at McKinney are also ordered to Rawlins, together with two companies of infantry. These troops, your correspondent was informed at headquarters, will be sent at once juto the field to make the campaign "short, sharp and decisive," and to punish the Indians. The amount of telegraphing which has been necessary at this point to perfect arrangements for this campaign has been simply enormous. All appearances indicate that the government has on hand an undertaking of no mean dimensions. General Crook will leave for Rawlins at noon to-morrow to conduct the campaign in person. Both his aides, Lieutenants John G. Bourke and Walter S. Schuyler, are already on the ground.

PROSPECTS OF THE BELEAGUERED TROOPS.

A despatch was received here last night from Rawlins which stated that a ranchman had arrived from a point in the neighborhood of the position occupied by Thornburgh's command. This man states that on the morning following the day of Thornburgh's death rapid and continuous firing was heard in the direction he had chosen. The ranchman hurried from the country, and as no couriers have yet come many beprominent officer at headquarters of many years' experience in Indian campaigns still maintains that the command will, judging from the information received and the Indians' known method of fighting, hold their position until Merritt reaches them. With wagons, dead horses and earthworks, which could be thrown up in the night, and which the command certainly had, no old officer will admit that they are not yet safe. With General Merritt's known dash and vigor it is believed he will reach them to-night, as he arranged to travel continuously, and will make one stop of about two hours, removing saddles and harnesses to allow the mules to roll and secure water. It is believed the first information, unless by courier, from Captain Payne's command will be received at headquarters on

The two companies of infantry stationed at Fort Omaha have not yet been ordered out, though, according to the officers' talk, they are simply held to relieve other companies in the winter campaign, which is believed certain. INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL CROOK.

Your correspondent found General Crook sitting in front of the Withnell House to-night. looking careworn and sad. He said he had no later information from Thornburgh's command and no reason to believe it had been massacred. The Arapahoes were up north and no more with the Utes than he was himself. He considered it by no means certain that Meeker and his friends are wiped out. If they had gained the block house a few whites could head off any number of Indians with arms and ammunition. The Indians never attack where they are certain to lose some of their number, unless they have more at stake than in this case. He believed the only Indians interested in this outbreak are the White River Utes, numbering 800, of which perhaps 300 are fighting men. The concentration of a large body of troops at Rawlins would be necessary to protect that part of Colorado. If only 100 hostile Utes were out it would be necessary to follow them up and secure them to render the

Upon being asked if the withdrawnl of such large bodies of troops from the Northern posts was not somewhat risky, General Crook said if the Indians were in the mood for an outbreak the presence of a few companies made little difference, though there is no danger at present of an outbreak of Indians at any northern point. He had never informed himself particularly in regard to the nature of the Utes, they not being in his department.

Friends of Captain Paul Vandervoort, of this city, chief clerk of the railway mail service,

who is with General Tyner's party, are in receipt of information which assures the safety of the entire party.

NO NEWS FROM THE FRONT-ORIGIN OF THE OUTBREAK AND THE RESPONSIBILITY-THORN-BURGH'S ORDERS-ACTION OF THE INDIAN OFFICE-GENERAL SHERIDAN ON OUR INDIAN WARS AND THEIR CAUSES-GENERAL POPE'S

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3, 1879.
Up to midnight there has been nothing received at the War or Interior departments from the Utte country. The opinion is that there will be no news before Sunday. Fears are entertained for the safety of the company of the lnth cavairy, under the commands of Lieutenant Dodge, which had been engaged in breaking up the Indian back to the agency. At the Interior Department the officials are busy to-night scheduling all the documents and letters bearing upon the management of the Ute Indians. Secretary Schurz will arrive topare a statement showing that the outbreak was un-provoked so far as the conduct of his department is concerned. The attempt by the signed as one of the reasons for embittering the Utes against the government authority. This, in onnection with the invasion of the reservation by prospectors and others, the attempt to introduc agricultural pursuits and the failure of Congress to make the special appropriations for the payment of lands taken from the Utes, will be assigned as probble cause for the recent outbreck.

AT THE INDIAN OFFICE. At the Indian Office much anxiety is felt for the afety of Agent Meeker and the other whites at the agency, respecting whom nothing has yet been heard. In alluding to the efforts which have been made to create the impression that the outbreak was in a degree owing to the failure of the Indian office to act upon certain reports which were for warded by the War Department to this bureau it was stated that every item of information had been promptly taken up and the necessary steps taken to prevent as far as possible an outbreak. The first intimation received of any trouble among the Utes was on July 5 last, when General Pitkin of Colorado, telegraphed the acting commissioner in which he quotes from a letter of Indian Agen seker, dated July 2, then just received, and con

thrues:—

He asks me to appeal to the military, and says that Major Thornburgh, the commander at Fort Steele, pays no attention to his repeated requests to keep the Indians where they belong. He says that Chief boughas has sent scouting parties to recall his bands. I have no information whether they have started home or not. The Utes have burned more timber in the last few weeks than the white settlers had cut in twenty years.

Agent Meeker had also advised the Indian Office that the Indians had left their reservation and were burning large tracts of timber in the North and Mid-

On July 9, Commissioner Hoyt telegraphed Governor Pitkin that the War Department had been requested to send troops to bring the Uses back to their reservation. On July 7, a telegram was sent to Agent Meeker to take immediate steps to secure the return of the Indians to their reservation, and that, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, he was authorized to if he found such aid necessary. The earliest report on this question received from the War Department was on August 15, and its general tenor was more calculated to produce the impression that the trouble had been overestimated by the Indian Bureau, rather than to suggest impending dangers of a serious outbreak. It was well known by the Bureau that the Indians had roused the ire of settlers in many instances by the destruction of their property by the fires kindled to drive the game to some particular spot and that serious threats had been made. The communication from the War Department, received August 15, contained a number of seports which exonerated the Indians, and stated that though they had killed large quantity of game it was not believed tha they had kindled the forest fires. In the face of these statements, however, the Commissioner reseived a letter from Mr. J. B. Thompson who re sides in the vicinity of Middle Park, stating that the and threatening to burn his property.

APPEAL TO THE STATE AUTHORITIES plained of further depredations, vised the Department that he pr these Indians were able to the State laws. It is stated that jurisdiction in the reservations, but that an effort would be made to secure the identification and arturned over to the civil authorities for punish ment. Instructions to this end were sent to Agent Meeker. It is known that Thompson, with a Sheriff and posse went to the agency to make the arrests, but could not find the Indians complained of. Subequently another communication was received from Thompson, in which he complained of the the Indian Bureau. His letter closed with the fol lowing significant language:-

It is believed that the efforts of Thompson and other settlers to secure the punishment of these Indians was the prime cause of the outbreak which the Indian Office and the War Department had used their utmost exertions to prevent. CONDESCRONDENCE REGARDING THE MATTER.

In this connection the tollowing correspondence is furnished by the Interior Department, copies of which were not received by the Acting Secretary of

which were not received by the Acting Secretary of the Interior until yesterday:

STATE OF COLORADO,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

DENVER, Sept. 16, 1879.

Major General Joun Podr, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.:

My Dear Sir.—I have the honor to enclose herewith a communication from N. C. Mecker, Indian agent at the White River agency, in which he details the feelings of the Utes at that point, and desires me to confer with you for the purpose of securing at least one hundred troops for the protection of the agency. I also enclose herewith a copy of a fether just received by Major J. B. Thompson, special agent of the General Land Office, in charge of the government timber of the State from J. B. Donaldson, superintendent of the International Mining Company at Hans Peak, in Rouast county, detailing what he knows in relation to the forest fires now burning in that locality.

I received yesterday your despatch advising me that a company of cavairy had been ordered to proceed at once to the White River agency. Your letter, concerning the disposition of the Utes, I presume will reach me to-day.

FREDERICK W. PITKIN, Governor, ceed at once to the White concerning the disposition of the Utes, I pre-will reach me to-day. will reach me to-day. PREDERICK W. PITKIN, Governor, PREDERICK States Indian Service

United States Indian Service, White River Agency, Col., Sept. 10, 1879.

follows a copy of Agent Meeker's letter, in which he details the objections of the Indians to his ploughing and the fact that one of his ploughmen and been shot at, already published in the HERALD.] THE POREST PURES.

INTERNATIONAL CAMP, HANS PEAR, Rouett county, Col., Sept. 10, 1879.]

JAMES B. THOMPSON, Special Agent General Land JAMES B. TROMPSON, Special Agent General Land Office:

Dean Sin—Your favor of the 6th is received. The forest are that began near Sand Mountains early in May last has been burning ever since and has finally culminated, after sweeping over all that section of country, in a grand attack on our mining property on String Ridge, sweeping all before it and causing us very scrious expense to keep it out of this camp. Hesdos, it is now sweeping everything before it along the line of our sevening everything before it along the line of our sevening everything before it along the line of our sevening everything before it along the line of our sevening everything before it along the line of our sevening everything before it along the line of our sevening of everything before it along the line of our sevening of a miracle. The usands of acres have been burned over, and who can say when it will stop. Our sawmill and timber, I think, may go unless we get rain or snow within the next three days. We keep men night and day battling it where we can, but man is almost poweriess against such a destructive element when once set in motion. Frank Himman asked the Utes whom he was on Shake River why they set the timber on fire in our section, and they repled is—"In order that their ponies could

camp. I am not acquainted with any of the Utes, and of course they will not converse with a stranger. But I do know they were in our vicinity when these fires were started in the apring and there has been no hunters around or so should have known it because the mining camps are their market for meat.

About the quantity of timber and grazing land burned over I cannot give it in scres, but it is immense. It can only be measured by miles, and at this date it growing more flerce overy day. Nothing now can stop it but a storm of rain or snow. Very respectfully, J. B. DONALDSON, Superintendent.

Official copies of these papers, were forwarded to Official copies of these papers were forwarded to staff for his information by General Pope, and by General Sheridan to the Adjutant General of the Army, under date of September 29 and September 25. As already said it was not until yesterday that copies

MAJOR THORNBURGH'S ORDERS.

Major Thornburgh toward the White River Agency gree in saying that at the critical moment, when the danger of attack was inevitable, he was advised to act promptly and repel the approaching Indians. He is quoted as saying that orders were such that he could not an attack without subjecting himself to a court nartial in the event he should survive the engage nent which was certain to follow. Officers of the in vain to find any orders emanating from the War Department that would have warranted any such structions. On the 15th of September the official application was made by the Interior Department er troops, which resulted in the sending of Major Thornburgh with three companies of cavalry and one of infantry to the White Elver Agency. The Adjuant General telegraphed a verbatim copy of the let ter received from the Acting Secretary of the Interior to General Sheridan, who communicated the ame, through his Assistant Adjutant General, Whipple, to General Pope, commanding the Department of the Missouri, Whon the orreached General Pope he knew that e must be some mistake about it, as the force under him was too remote from the agoncy to be effective, if immediate action was to be taken. He at once returned the order to General ing the Department of the Platte, and whose forces ould be rapidly concentrated at Fort Steele. Wha orders General Crook gave Major Thornburgh are unknown to the War Department.

Adjutant General Townsend says:-Of late years it has been the general order of the Department in sending out special expeditions to causion the officers against precipitating an engagement with the reaming Indians. The nature of the Indian is such that he is provoked at the slightest exhibition of force, and when a military expedition challenges the warlike proclivities of the Indian in invariably follows that the War Department has an Indian war on its hands. Hence the abundance of caution urged upon all officers not to fire upon Indians merely because they are found away from their agency or off their reservation. In this case Major Thornburgh appears to have acted as a cautious, obedient office would. His instructions were to proceed to the agency. He had already met a number of the chiefs, and from all he saw, he had hardly any reason for supposing that the Utes intended hostile acts until he was face to face with the danger. Besides, we have but one statement that Major Thornburgh did not feel justified in acting as a prudent officer Of late years it has been the general order of the id not feel justified in acting as a prudent nould have done under the circumstances.

THE REQUEST FOR TROOPS The following is the letter of Acting Secretary Bell which was telegraphed to General Sheridan:—

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, Sept. 15, 1879.
HOnorable Secretary of War:—
R—I have the honor to invite your attention to The Honorable SECRETARY OF WAR:—
Sig.—I have the honor to invite your attention to
he enclosed copy of a letter of this date from the
commissioner of Indian Affairs, with enclosure
herein noted in relation to insubordination of the
ndians at White River Agency, Col., in assaulting
and driving the agent, N. C. Mecker, from his
gency. In view of the state of affairs in said agency,
s communicated, I respectfully request that agency. In view of the state or affairs in said agency, as communicated, I respectfully request that the commandant of the nearest military post may be instructed by telegraph to detail a sufficient guard for the arrest of such of the Indians as may be found implicated in the disturbance, and that the ringleaders be held as prisonors until the matter has been thoroughly investigated. Very respectfully, A. BELL, Acting Secretary, LETTER OF THE COMMISSIONER.

The letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs pon which the above was predicated is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
WASHINGTON, SEPI. 15, 1879.
The Honorable the Secretary of the Interio Honorable Secretary of War, with the request that he cause the necessary orders to issue to the commandant of the nearest military post to the agency to detail a sufficient number of troops to arrest such Indian chiets as are insubordinate and enforce obedience to the requirements of the agent and afford him such protection as the exigency of the case requires; also that the ring-leaders be held as prisoners until an investigation can be had. Very respectfully.

E. J. BROOKS, Acting Commissioner.

GENERAL SHERIDAN'S REPORT.

General Sheridan, in his last annual report to Gen eral Sherman, alludes to the insignificant force un the government. After describing the area of terri tory over which they have been allowed to roam, the prodigal provision of nature in creating vas herds of Buffalo, with elk, antelope, deer and other

herds of Buffalo, with elk, antelope, deer and other large game, he says:—

This thus briefly stated was their condition in this wast extent or country about ten years ago, and this was good enough for and satisfied the wants of the savage, while constant feutus among themselves gave them active occupation, as war was their only profession and they disatined work. They believed that all the region I have described belonged to them, and our Indian policy acknowledged their right to the country and what it contained. But, ans for the poor savage! along came the nineteenth century progress, or whatever it may be called, to disturb their happy condition. The white men crowded on to the grounds of the Indians and made encroachments on his rights, which no government could stop. Our handful of soldiers was at first sent to protect the Indians, but such attempts were powerless. The government made treaties, gave could stop. Our handful of soldiers was at first sent to protect the Indians, but such attempts were powerless. The government made treaties, gave presents, made promises, none of which were nonestly fulfilled, and, like all original treaties with Indians in this country, they were the first steps in the process of developing hosthities. The Indian became jedlous, the made in his simplicity blind bargains, the becan to see his lands wrested from his possession, his herds of Buffalo, which he believed the Great Spirit had given him, rapidly diminish, the eik, deer and antelope killed for the market by the sportsman and widen scattered by both, and his rude nature, alike to civilized nature under similar conditions, naturally rebeited. He commenced war, was as he had been accustomed to make it, and men, women and children, intruders upon his soil, were killed, no difference being made between the innocent or guilty, the armed or unarmed. The government followed up these acts of hostility with an army too small to intimidate or even punish, and after years of struggle the Indians south of the Pacific Railroad and down to the Gulf of Mexico, including the Cheyonnes, Arapahoes and Knowas and Comanches, were forced on to reservaof Mexico, including the Cheyennes, Arapahoes and Kiowas and Comanches, were forced on to reserva-tions at Forts Stil and Beno in the Indian Territory by the constant haumering of an inadequate force.

EMPIRE'S RESISTLESS MARCH.
Only a breathing spell intervened when the sar
thic of re-tiess emigration was attracted to t
Northwest. The Biack Hills contained gold; t Yellowstone and along the castern slope of the Big Horn Mountains invited the agraculturist while the upper table land country presented the finest grazing ranges in the world. The northern herd of buffalo had fattened upon them for hundreds of years and it was too much for the wave of emigration to withstand and the invasion of this country commenced. War with the Sloux followed, and when it ended the country was lost to these Indians, and those who did not fice the country to british America found themselves confined to a reservation embracing the peoperst of all this extensive region, with agencies on the Missouri River, with the exception of the Red Cloud band of Agallalias and the Spotted Tall band of Brule Sioux, whose agencies are now on White River, Nebraska, so that in 1877 the great country referred to, which in 1839 belonged to the Indians and extended from the line of the British possessions on the north, and almost to the Gair of Mexico on the south, had passed into the hands of the whites with the exceptions of the limited reservations assigned to the Indians, and with no compensation beyond the promise of religious instruction, schools, supplies of food and clothing and an opportunity of learning the ways in which the white man cultivated the ground, most of which promises have never been fulfilled. In other words, we took away their country and their means of support, broke up their modes of bring, introduced disease and decay among them, and it was for this and against this they made war. Could any one expect less? Then why wonder at Indian difficulties? These wars might have been reparded as inevitable, and, therefore, a sufficient number of solders snoulti have been provided to infect them; but it was not done, and honce the fatal results which it was not done, and honce the fatal results which

followed. No other nation in the world would have attempted the reduction of these wild tribes and occupation of their country with less than sixty or seventy thousand men, while the whole force employed and scattered over the enormous region never numbered fourteen thousand men, and nearly one-third of this force has been confined to the line of the Rio Grande to protect the Mexican frontier. The consequence was that every engagement was a forlorn hope and was attended with a loss of his unparalleled in warfare. No quanter was given by the savages, and the officers and men had to enter on their duties with the most barbarous cruelties staring them in the face in case of defeat,

was this misfortune confined to the soldie Nor was this misfortune confined to the soldier. It extended to the settier, who was himself killed or came home to see his wife and children murdered and his stock stolen. Such, in truth, has been the contest on our Western frontier during the last ten years. It would have been less expensive if an army of sixty or seventy thousand men had been maintained, and, moreover, the blood of galant officers, soldiers and citizens would not have rested on our hands. This, then, was the first cause of our Indian wars. They would have occurred no matter what course or policy the government might have adopted. We could not deprive these primitive people of their homes where they had lived in barbarous contentment for centuries without war. And the only thing strange about these wars was the manner and means adopted by the government to meet them.

manner and means adopted by the government to meet them.

THE SECOND CAUSE OF OUTBREAKS.

The second outbreak of Indian hostilities is caused in this way:—After he has lost his country and hads himself compelled to remain on reservations his limits circumscribed, his opportunities of hunting abridged, his game disappearing, sickness in his lodge from change of life and food, and insufficiency of the latter, and this irregularly supplied, the reflection coming to him of what he was and what he now is, white pinched by hunger, creates a feeling of dissatisfaction which in the absence of a good strong force of soldlers starts him out on the warpath again and unarmed people are killed, sottlements are broken up, farms are abandoned and general contusion exists. To prevent or even meet the caiamity which may occur we are entirely unprepared, for without exposing other important points we can collect together but a few hundred men. For instance, at Fort Sill and vicinity to meet the kiowas, Comanches, Apaches and others located in the Indian Territory, numbering three or four thousand, we have not more than three hundred effective men. At Fort Reno to guard the Cheyennes and Arapahoes numbering they or six thousand, we have not exceeding two hundred effective men. At Red Cloud Agency, where there are at least six thousand Indians, we have only two companies, and could not in ten days collect over five or six hundred men. At Spotted Tail's we have only two companies, and could not in ten days collect over five or six hundred men. At Spotted Tail's we have only two companies, and could not in ten days collect over five or six hundred men. At Spotted Tail's we have only two comited Cloud Agency, where there are at least six thousand Indians, we have only two companies, and could not in ten days collect over five or six hundred men. At Spotted Tail's we have only two companies, numbering 119 men, and it would take two weeks to collect all the troops we could muster—and they would not number more than five or six hundred effective men—while the Indians number not less than seven thousand. And so on at points where there are Indians and agencies, and at other strategical points. The number of troops is insignificant, and if outbreaks occur, as I fear they will, the consequences would be appaling.

NOT HALF ENOUGH TROOPS.

number of troops is insignificant, and it outbreaks accur, as I fear they will, the consequences would be appaine.

NOT HALF ENOUGH TROOPS.

And I desire to warn the General of the Army that we have not half the troops required to meet these anticipated troubles. Now that the game upon which the Indians depend for their regular supply of food is gone we shall require a greater supply of rations with perfect regularity in its issue, to meet the needs of these people, together with a strong and stable government, backed up by a sufficient number of soldiers to enforce a spirit of obedience and to keep these restless savages within the limits of their reservations.

MEASURES OF BELIEF.

It will be seen from the foregoing that it is my belief that in accordance with our ideas of progress the first war with Indians is inevitable and cannot be prevented, but that second wars are within our control and we are responsible for them, and that the responsibility rests on us, first from our injudicious treatments and second from want of a sufficient force to control and render the Indians submissive to authority, and I have no hesitation in saying that after the first troubles, which arise from taking away from the Indian this country, which he believes to be his birthright, kind treatment, administered with steadiness and justice, would relieve our Western frontier of all its appalling horrors arising from Indian outbreaks. I believe that with treatment of this kind the Indian can be redemed and made self-supporting and in an increably short period of time, too, as compared with the opinions usually entertained by the general public, and my opinions are sustained by a knowledge acquired from an intimate association with the subject in all its phases for the last twenty-four years. opinions usually entertained by the general public and my opinions are sustained by a knowledge ac-quired from an intimate association with the sub-ject in all its phases for the last twenty-four years.

REPORT OF GENERAL POPE. Following the report of General Sheridan comes ment of the Missouri, in which the Uto reservation is located. By mistake the request of the Interior agency was sent by Assistant Adjutant General Whipple at Chicago to General Pope, when it should have been sent to General Crook, commanding the Department of the Platte. The agency being in the very northwestern part of General Pope's department, it has been found necessary, on the ground o economy, to draw troops from the Department of the Platte when required for emergency. When the order to send forward troops reached General Pope he promptly sent it to Gen Department that he was more than ever convinced of the wisdom of his recommendations last year for a further consolidation of the Ute agenc that he should renew them in his forthcoming

of the Ute agencies:—

The Utes are established at several agencies in Southwestern Colorado, far distant from and very difficult of communication with each other. It is, therefore, extremely difficult to keep the emigrants protected against these Indians. It has long been my beiter, and I have urged it upon the authorities, that every interest, both of the Indian Bureau and War Department, would be promoted by consoidating these several agencies into one, and establishing the consolidated agency at some convenient, suitable and easily accessible locality. If such locality could be found so as to be; as far as practicable, to one side of the routes of travel into Southwestern Colorado, to which section a heavy emigration has been setting for several years, and at the same time emsetting for several years, and at the same time emsetting for several years, and at the same time emserting no attractions to miners or prospectors for gold, and the Indians could be transferred to it and kept there by the use of mixed persuasion and force, a satisfactory settlement of difficulties with the Utes would be accomplished.

ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL TYNER AND PARTY "SAFE AND SOUND."

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3, 1879. Third Assistant Postmaster General Hazen received telegram this morning from the Postmaster at Cheyenne stating that General Typer and party are all safe; that they were about 150 miles from the scene of the Indian battle. This afternoon the following telegram was received at the Post Office De-

LARAMIE CTTY, Wy. T., Oct. 3, 1879.

Postmaster General KEY, Washington:

We are here sate and sound; have seen no Indians nor had any trouble. I will be home next week.

JAMES N. TYNER,

Assistant Postmaster General.

GENERAL TYNER AT LARAMIE CITY. CHEYENNE, Wy. T., Oct. 3, 1879.
Assistant Postmaster General Typer and party arrived at Laramie City this morning.

THE SCENE OF THE FIGHT ON MILK CREEK-THE ROAD FROM RAWLINS TO THE AGENCY-POSITION OF THE WHITE RIVER UTES LAST YEAR-A COUNCIL, WHERE THEY SAID, "PEACE, BUT NO SOLDIERS."

In September of last year a commission, autho ized by Congress to proceed to the Ute Nation for the purpose of procuring the cession to the government of certain lands, visited Colorado. The tract of territory decided was that forming an "L" fround the San Juan mining region, and comprised over a million acres. To accomplish this it was necessary to obtain the consent of all the tribes. Hence Mr. W. S. Stickney, s, ecretary to the commis sion, and Lieutenant C. A. H. McCauley as escorand engineer, were despatched to the White River Agency to procure the signatures of the there. They started from Rawlins buckboard, and made the journey the old agency buildings of 184 miles to in four days. In doing this they made several "cut offs," thus shortening and hastening the journey. By forced marching it is possible that Ge ritt, now on his way to the relief of Thornburgh's command, may equal this time; but with a wagon train it will be difficult. The road is a fairly good one for that kind of country, but in several places high mountains have to be crossed and steep descents made. As those familiar with the far Western regions are aware, the roads, where possible, run along the river bottoms, and as the latter in the mountain system of the West are generally enclosed between high hills, the dangers of an advance through a hostile country can be appreciated. On the road south from Rawlins, the Snake and Bear rivers are successively crossed. Fifteen miles from the latter William's Fork, a tributary of the Bear River, is met. Here, 139 miles from Rawlins and forty-five miles from the White River Agency, Major Thornburgh was visited in camp by a party of In-

orow, and invited to proceed to the agency with an escort of but five men. Thornburgh refused, re-membering the fate of Colonel Canby in the Modoc war, and in the morning ordered an advance of al his force. The road is now an ascending one and about three miles. It then trails over a divide or high range of hills. Descending the canyon of a small brook, a locality known Morapitz by the Utes, is reached, and in the canyon of another small stream an abrupt turn to the South occurs. This stream is a tributary of William's Fork, and flowing north is in a beautiful canyon. Sandstone rocks with steep incline rise abruptly on either side to confined. Leaving this stream and continuing to the south, after crossing a hill, the road passes to the side of and along the base of the sandstone cliffs. Beyond this a high divide, with long and steep slope, is passed, the summit being over eight thou

MILK CREEK CANYON—THE PIGHT *The descent leads directly to Milk Creek, so called from the whitish appearance of its waters. It was at this point that the signs of hostile Indians were first discovered by the keen eyes of the scout, Rankin, and hence the place, which was subsequently to be the scene of the short but disastrous combat, merits description. At the point where the road crosses the creek is the northern line of the Ute reservation, and twenty-five miles from the agency, on White River. Milk Creek is not more than ten feet wide and but four inches deep. Its border timber is a few cottonwoods. winds and turns, being crossed five times by the road. The canyon through which it runs is nar row and tortuous and confined by steep hills, those upon the western side rising sharply to 500, 600; and lower down, 1,000 feet. No better place for an amnoted, discovered the fact that hostile Indiana lines the heights along this death trap. The wagons were with which was Major Thornburgh, over a trail for horses and light vehicles that makes a detour through the hills and joins the wagon road below Milk Creek canyon. They had not proceeded far before the Indians discovered that the soldiers had not marched into the trap they had laid and out of which not one could have escaped alive. But the savages were ably led, and while one body crossed the hills to confront Major Thornburgh another body made a dash between him and the wagon train. The Indians in his front began firing, but fearing the wagons would be lost, he faced about and or rush he fell, with thirteen of his men, twenty-five besides being wounded. The remainder gained the wagon train, where they made an intrenchment out of the wagons and the bodies of the horses and mules killed in the fight. There they are waiting the help that General Merritt is hurrying forward The battle occurred on Monday. The relief cannot reach them before to-morrow, using the greatest expedition. Can they hold out for six days? THE UTES A YEAR AGO.

From Mr. Stickney's letter to the Ute Commissioners, under date of November 27, extracts are dition of things at the White River Agency a year ago. The agency was then in its old quarters, the

removal referred to being since accomplished.

After riding in four days about two hundred miles we reached the White River Valley and the Indian agency. The agent, Mr. N. C. Meeker, received us very cordinily, and introduced us to the scanty quarters and poor fare of the agency boarding house. Wednesday a council was convened, and, as a result, I have the pleasure to submit herewith the written consent of most of the chiefs and headmen—viz., thirty-four in number, to "whatever disposition the Capotes, Musches and Weeminuches may make" of the southern and western strips of the reservation.

may make" of the southern and western strips of the roservation.

WANT PEACE.

The Indians were very friendly, and wished the Great Fathor to distinctly understand that they (the White River Utes) do not want to tight nor in any way incur the displeasure of the whites. In regard to the late murder in Middle Pack, they disclaim all connection. Washington, who was present at the murder, claims to have advised Piah against it, but his counsel was disregarded. Piah has not yet returned to the agency. If he could be caught and punished by the government authorities the effect on the Indians would unquestionably be for the best, and would have a tendency to prevent an early repetition of the crime.

WMLL OFF INDIANS.

The condition of the White River Indians and the agricultural capacity of their country seem to be but little known outside of the agency and its vicinage. The old distinction of the Yampa and Grand River bands is rapidly disappearing, and they all call themselves "White River" Utes. The chief no longer has absolute authority, but acts only in accordance with the will of a majority of his councillors. They are all well off—hardly an Indian has less than twenty-five ponies. All have good guns and an abundance of ammunition. Game is plentiful, and the Indians are rich from their hunting. They hunt outside the reservation going two, three and

so great that irrigating ditches are being en structed, and a fall of sixty foot for mili-poses can be secured. The agent is aiready in up the ground, and hopes to obtain a wheat st, by next season.
FINE FARMING COUNTRY.

At least, by next season.

FIRE FARMING COUNTRY.

The settlers on Snake and Bear rivers regard this valley as far superior to their own and better adapted for grazing and agricultural purposes than any other part of this country. All seemed to concur that at least five thousand Indians could be supported there, the agent, a professional farmer, claiming that he can suppert 10,000 people in that valley and its subsidiaries. He also says, "This White River range on the reservation is unequalled in the West, and it possesses the great advantage of not being trespassed upon by any other herds, a condition that diminishes the labor of herding and reduces the losses by estrays and stealings. This range has a money value of at least \$50,000. There is no section comparable with it south of the divide between White and Grand rivers." This country seems much better adapted for cultivation than the Uncompangre Valley. It lies south of the mountain ranges, which protect it from the extreme coid; its fully as near a railroad, about one hundred and seventy-five nailes over a good natural road, and is well to be thought to be the mount of the means and the country of the mountain ranges, which protect it from the extreme coid; its fully as near a railroad, about one hundred and seventy-five nailes over a good natural road, and is it is fully as near a railroad, about one hundred and seventy-live inites over a good natural road, and is well removed from the settlers. Should it be thought best to consolidate the Los Pinos with the White River Agency there certainly would be no difficulty in supplying them; the White Rivers probably have not more than four hundred, certainly less than five hundred, and your honorable body has already approximated the number in Ouray's band as abourone thousand, making a total of, at most, one thousand five hundred Indians.

THE COUNCIL. Lieutenant McCauley, in his valuable account of the same journey, refers to the council alluded to is Mr. Stickney's letter as follows :-

Mr. Stickney's letter as follows:—

At the council a full representation of the chiefs and head men were present. They regarded at first with suspicion the document presented for signature, stating that the lanus referred to belonged to other tribes, and that in them they had no interest, evidently fearing there was some "catch" in the matter. The paper first prepared they rejected, and a second one written by Mr. Mecker, their agent, was torn up by Jack, one of the head chiefs, for which, however, he afterward apologized. After long, repeated and full explanations they signed the paper desired, wishing several things evidently and clearly to be understood:—

First—Objections to the name of Iguacer appearing, lest it might be thought that his claims for supermacy were acknowledged, tribal names only being used.

premacy were acknowledged, tribal names only being used.

Second—Disclaiming against the recent outbreak in Middle Park and the resulting bloodshed, the In-dians engaged in which belonged to the Uncom-pangre Agency.

Fourth—Their emphatic desire for peace and that

Fourth—Their emphatic desire for peace and that no solidiers should be sent there.

As requested, a copy of the following paper was taken for transmission to the commissioners, and a copy sent to General Pope, commanding Department of the Missouri, and General Crook, commanding Department of the Platte. Its expression and adoption was called forth by the killing jof an Indian in Middle Park, and the murder, in retaliation, of a settles there are the there. Settler there:

WHITE RIVER AGENCY, Col., Sept 8, 1879.

To the Profile of Colorado and Wyoning:

To the Profile of Colorado and the Lie nation.

To the Propis of Colonado And Wroging.

The principal chiefs and headmen of the Uto nation, in connect assembled this day at White River Agency, send.

That they declare it their intention to continue on the most friendly terms with the white severywhere, and that they protest against any naries making or causing difficulty between the whites and the Uto nation. AHPAH. UNGARMNEE. CATUMP. SOWPATCH. TOSAKEETS, CARATSSITS. MOWICKEN.

DOUGLAS.
JACK.
SOWERICK.
JOHNSON.
UNGACHIEF.
OWEEWEETS,
TIMOTHY. TIMOTHY.
POWISKIS.
POWISKIS.
VAMANAH.
UNCAMASIOATS.
TOOMOGO.
AHWORTS.
TROMPWONITS.
SOURIPE.
SOCKERROACH.
SOUGHRRICANE

MECISCO, COMMISSIONER, OUIGAREEM, PAHSIS, PAHCHUCHINIASKET, PAHVITS,